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## Office of Tribal Government Relations Newsletter ~ April 2014

Welcome to the April edition of our VA Office of Tribal Government Relations (OTGR) National Monthly Newsletter.

April was a busy month for OTGR. The highlight for me was attending our Tribal Training Summit on the Nez Perce reservation near Lewiston, Idaho, on April 9. The event was hosted by the Nez Perce Tribe and Coeur d' Alene Tribes of Idaho. 146 tribal leaders and veterans attended the Summit, and heard information about Veterans benefits, access to health care, Social Security, suicide prevention, and many other topics. The Nez Perce Tribal Chairman, Silas Whitman, and the Coeur d' Alene tribal Vice-Chairman, Ernie Stensgar, both spoke to the attendees. The gentleman sitting next to me, a non-native working with Veterans at a counseling center, told me that he was so excited about the Summit that he could not sleep the night before.

A few things about the Summit stand out in my mind. The Summit opened with a moving ceremony by the Quilts of Valor Foundation, a national non-profit group that awarded handmade quilts to several Veterans in attendance. Specifically, they honored two WWII Nez Perce Tribal Veterans, two Korean Nez Perce Veterans; one Vietnam Veteran and one Iraq Veteran. In the evening of Day 1, Nimiipuu ("the people") students performed Nimiipuu stories, with refreshments provided by the tribes. The kids were as cute as could be, and the stories gave a little insight in to how the Nez Perce people are culturally and historically tied to the land. Finally, and on a more somber note, the Suicide Prevention Training presented the Evening of Day 1 was excellent. I learned a lot that I did not know about a vitally important topic. Thanks to Terry Bentley ([terry.bentley@va.gov](mailto:terry.bentley@va.gov)) and Peter Vicaire ([peter.vicaire@va.gov](mailto:peter.vicaire@va.gov)) for spearheading this Summit and training.

In other highlights from the past month, HoMana Pawiki, our Southwest Regional Specialist presented training at the CMS/IHS training session in Albuquerque the week of April 21. On April 28, Mary Culley, OTGR Southern Plains Regional Specialist is meeting with the Mississippi Choctaw Tribe and the Jackson VAMC regarding the Tribe's Reimbursement Agreement. She is also meeting with Tribe about the upcoming Eastern Region Training Summit (see more below), and about the Tribe signing an MOU with the VA under the Native American Direct Loan Program. Finally, the week of April 14, OTGR Western Region Specialist Terry Bentley, and Southwest Regional Specialist HoMana Pawiki, attended Tribal Veterans Representative training in Anchorage, Alaska at the invitation of the Anchorage VAMC.

In the coming weeks, there is even more going on! For example, on April 30, at the request of the Tribal Housing Director, OTGR is organizing a Veterans Benefit Fair at the Lac Courte Oreilles tribe in Wisconsin.

On May 1, the White House Council on Native American Affairs is having a meeting, chaired by Secretary Jewell of the Department of the Interior. Stephanie Birdwell, Acting Director of Intergovernmental affairs, will be accompanying Josh Taylor, Acting Assistant Secretary for Public and Intergovernmental Affairs, to the Council meeting. Also on May 1, in Polacca, AZ, the VA and the Hopi IHS Clinic will begin

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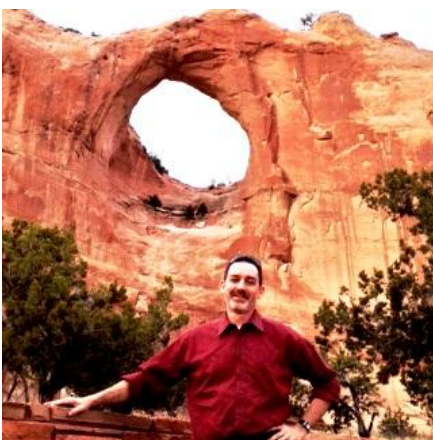
offering VA clinical services for Veterans at the Hopi IHS Ambulatory Care Center. This will provide easier access by Veterans to VA health care. OTGR Specialist HoMana Pawiki will attend the opening. On May 7, Mary Culley and Mr. Morgan Pontiff, St. Paul Regional Loan Guaranty Officer (NADL Program) are meeting with the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Tribal Council regarding a NADL MOU. On May 13 – 14, Mary Culley and VHA and VBA representatives will present before the tribal health care representatives at the CMS/IHS Dallas training summit, to provide information on OTGR, as well as VHA enrollment and eligibility information, and VBA Claims processing information.

On May 23, HoMana Pawiki will attend the formal opening of VA clinical services offered at the Tuba City Regional Health Care Corporation, Inc., which is a self-governance, Level 2 facility. Thanks to Ron Sepulveda, Rural Health Coordinator for the Northern Arizona VA Health Care System, for making this possible.

Looking ahead to the Summer and Fall, OTGR Specialists will be organizing, presenting at and/or attending the June 8 – 13, 2014, Society of American Government Employees (SAIGE) Annual Training Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico, the August 20, 21 2014, Southwest Region Veterans Benefits Summit in Towaoc, Colorado (Contact [lorae.pawiki@va.gov](mailto:lorae.pawiki@va.gov) for more information), and the September 8-11, 2014, National Indian Health Board Annual Consumer Conference, which will be held in New Mexico.

Last, but not least, we are holding our third 2014 OTGR Veterans Training Summit on May 21 – 22, 2014. The Summit is hosted by, and held at the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians in Choctaw, Mississippi. OTGR Specialists Mary Culley and Peter Vicaire are collaborating with the G.V. “Sonny” Montgomery VAMC in organizing the Summit. The Summit is open to all tribes and provides an opportunity for Tribal leaders and Veterans to learn about benefits and services that the VA has to offer. Contact [mary.culley@va.gov](mailto:mary.culley@va.gov) or [peter.vicaire@va.gov](mailto:peter.vicaire@va.gov) for more information. We will be having other Tribal Training Summits later this year, including in Northern California and Fargo, North Dakota later in the summer. Stay tuned for more information about those events.

Warm Regards - Jerry





## Grants for Transportation of Veterans in Highly Rural Areas - Chief Business Office — Department of Veterans Affairs

An informative webinar which provides much information on the grant can be accessed here: <https://va-eerc-ees.adobeconnect.com/a1089657440/p552nvc4m5e/?launcher=false&fcsContent=true&pbMode=normal>. The deadline is midnight, May 27.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Veterans Transportation Program (VTP) is pleased to announce that it is seeking applicants for Grants for Transportation of Veterans in Highly Rural Areas. This program furthers the Department's mission by establishing a program to provide grants to eligible VSOs and State Veteran Service Agencies to assist veterans in highly rural areas through innovative transportation services to travel to Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Centers (VA Medical Centers), and to otherwise assist in providing transportation services in connection with the provision of VA medical care to these veterans.

- Tribes are eligible to apply.
- Services will have to be provided in those counties that are considered "highly rural" - Highly Rural is defined by the population density of less than 7 persons per square mile in county. Twenty-five states have counties with highly rural areas.
- Grantees can receive \$50,000 for each highly rural area that they provide transportation services. One grant may be awarded to a grantee per fiscal year for each highly rural area in which the grantee provides transportation services. Transportation services may not be simultaneously provided by more than one grantee in any single highly rural area.
- Additional information and how to apply can be found on grants.gov. For a copy of the Application Package: Download directly from
- <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/home.html>. Click on search for grants and on the left side type in 64.035 in the box that says CFDA Number or click on this link <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=253011>
- Please review the 25 page instruction sheet and webinar that is posted on grants.gov.
- After reviewing the instructions and webinar and you still need additional information please e-mail [HRTG@va.gov](mailto:HRTG@va.gov)





## VA's Office of Tribal Government Relations (Eastern Region) Hosts Veterans Training Summit with Mississippi Band of Choctaw



Department of  
Veterans Affairs

For further information contact:  
Jessica Jacobsen, APR  
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April 15, 2014

### *VA To Host Native American Eastern Region Veterans Training Summit*

**Event:** Eastern Region Veterans Training Summit

**Date:** May 21-22, 2014

**Time:** 8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

**Place:** Silver Star Casino and Hotel, 13541 Hwy 16, Choctaw, MS 39350.

#### **Background:**

On May 21-22, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Office of Tribal Government Relations, in collaboration with the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, will host its 2<sup>nd</sup> Eastern Region Veterans Training Summit for tribal leaders, Veterans and Veteran service providers in Choctaw, Miss. The Summit provides an opportunity to interact with and hear updates from VA leadership and subject matter experts, share best practices and network with others who are serving Veterans in Indian Country.

Information being provided varies from Veterans health information, to Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom benefits, to VA's homeless programs and services. Staff from the Indian Health Service Nashville area office and VA's office of purchased care will be on hand to present on the national reimbursement agreements between VHA and Indian Health and Tribal Health facilities. The VA mobile clinic will be on-hand to enroll Veterans and conduct vesting exams and G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery VA Medical Center Director Joe Battle will also give opening remarks.

For more information about the VA, Office of Tribal Government Relations, please visit [www.va.gov/tribalgovernment](http://www.va.gov/tribalgovernment) or call Mary Culley, Office of Tribal Government Relations, at 405-626-3426 or Peter Vicaire, Office of Tribal Government Relations, 651-405-5676.

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## **U.S. Department of Transportation Provides \$30 Million to Improve Transit Options for American Indians, Alaska Natives on Tribal Lands**

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Transportation’s Federal Transit Administration (FTA) today [March 18] announced the award of \$5 million in competitive funds to 42 American Indian and Alaska Native tribes in 19 states for [projects](#) to improve transit service. The funds complement \$25 million allocated by formula to eligible tribal recipients for FY 2014, as [announced](#) last week. The combined \$30 million investment – double the amount available in prior years – supports efforts to enhance public transit service on rural tribal lands and better connect tribal members and other residents with jobs, education, and other ladders of opportunity. A formal notification will be published in the *Federal Register* in the coming weeks.

“The Obama Administration is proud to partner with tribal governments throughout the United States to create new ladders of opportunity for hard-working families and seniors hoping to improve their quality of life,” said U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx. “Access to affordable transportation goes hand-in-hand with ensuring that American Indians, Alaskan natives and other rural residents have a chance to succeed and pursue their goals.”

“We fully recognize that residents on tribal lands and in surrounding communities often face significant transportation challenges, as many cannot afford to own a vehicle, or fill the tank, and yet must travel long distances to reach basic services,” said FTA Deputy Administrator Therese McMillan. “We want to ensure that everyone who needs a ride to earn a paycheck, attend school, see the doctor, or buy groceries has that opportunity.”

Through FTA’s Tribal Transit Program, the competitively awarded FY 2013 funds will allow tribes to continue or enhance existing transit service, launch new public transportation or plan for future transit needs. Projects awarded competitive funds include the following:

- The Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe in Nevada will receive \$300,000 for start-up transit operations to connect tribal members and other residents in the rural areas of Sutcliffe, Nixon, Wadsworth, and Fernley to education, job training, health care, and employment opportunities in nearby Sparks and Reno.
- The Miami Tribe of Oklahoma will receive \$265,498 to purchase tools and equipment needed for a new Flexible Fuel Vehicle Maintenance



Facility for the Northeast Oklahoma Tribal Transit and Pelivan Transit fleets. The facility will service gasoline, diesel, CNG vehicles, and three 15-passenger commuter vans. The tools and equipment will provide new jobs and training for area technology schools and the Oklahoma State University.

- The Seneca Nation of Indians will receive \$145,000 to improve its existing transit service and ensure safe, accessible, and coordinated transportation services for tribal members and other residents in western New York. Improvements include construction of ADA-compliant bus shelters on the tribe's Allegany and Cattaraugus Territories, installation of real-time electronic message boards at the new shelters, and installation of video and audio surveillance equipment on buses.

Under the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) Act, FTA's Tribal Transit Program roughly doubled the amount of available funding from amounts awarded in recent years, but changed from an entirely discretionary program to a mostly formula-based one. Formula funds are awarded based on such factors as the miles a transit vehicle travels while in active service and the number of low-income individuals that reside on tribal lands. The FY 2014 formula funds, allocated to 112 tribes in 26 states, will help tribes continue to provide existing transit services that many rural residents depend on every day. The criteria for awarding competitive funds includes, among other things, project readiness; benefits to riders, such as increased reliability; economic benefits to the community; and a tribe's financial commitment to the project and to transit.

Under the prior authorization, SAFETEA-LU, approximately 200 tribal transit programs received a total of approximately \$107 million to enhance, launch, or plan for transit service on tribal lands under the FTA Tribal Transit Program.



## Code Talker Samuel 'Jesse' Smith Passes Away

Click [HERE](#) to read the original story, which was published in Navajo Times

Samuel "Jesse" Smith Sr., a former Navajo Code Talker and long-time tribal police officer and tribal employee, died on [April 14] Monday. Tribal officials said Smith, who was 89, died at Presbyterian Hospital in Albuquerque. He caught pneumonia back in January and wasn't able to shake it," said his son, Mike Smith. Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly ordered that Navajo Nation flags be flown at half-staff from Monday through sunset on Friday. "The Navajo Nation is saddened to hear that we lost another wonderful hero and role model to our people," he said. "He set a positive example for us to follow and we offer our prayers and condolences to the family."



**Samuel "Jesse" Smith Sr.**





## American Indian /Alaska Native Culture Card: A Guide to Build Cultural Awareness

This webinar took place on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, but you may still access it. All sessions are recorded for those unable to join them real-time, however, CME/CE credit is not available for viewing the recording. You can access previous recordings at: <http://bit.ly/TBHCEarchive>

*Presented by CAPT R. Andrew Hunt, Public Health Advisor, SAMHSA*

### Date and Time:

April 23, 2014 at 1 PM Eastern, 12 PM Central, 11 AM Mountain, 10 AM Pacific, 9 AM Alaska

### Summary:

Intended to enhance cultural competence when serving American Indian and Alaska Native communities. Covers regional differences; cultural customs; spirituality; communications styles; the role of veterans and the elderly, and health disparities, such as suicide

### Objectives

At the end of this presentation, participants will be able to:

1. Explain the history of the American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) culture card
2. Identify how the AI/AN culture card brings awareness, acceptance, and valuing of cultural differences.
3. Recognize the range of dynamics that result from the interaction between people of different cultures

### About the Presenter



CAPT Andrew Hunt, M.S.W., L.I.C.S.W. is an enrolled member of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina. He received his Master of Social Work degree from Portland State University in 1991 and later that year was called to Active Duty as a Commissioned Officer in the US Public Health Service (USPHS). From 1991-2006 CAPT Hunt was assigned to the Indian Health Service where he served in a series of clinical social work and mental health program management/consultant detail assignments in the Pacific Northwest. In 2006, he began his current assignment as a Public Health Advisor at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) working in the Center for Mental Health Services/Child, Adolescent and Family Branch. His primary role is as a project officer with the Child Mental Health Initiative where he specializes in working with tribal grantees, and the Circles of Care grant program. CAPT Hunt has received numerous awards over his 20 plus year USPHS career including a Commendation Medal in 2008 for his leadership role in developing SAMHSA's publication American Indian/Alaska Native Culture Card: Guide to Cultural Awareness.



The Jamestown Sun

## Letter to the Editor: People should honor those who served in Vietnam



ND Senator Richard  
Marcellais

Here's a "Letter to the Editor" which appeared in the Jamestown Sun (ND) on March 29. It was written by ND State Senator Richard Marcellais, from the Turtle Mountain Reservation. That original letter can be accessed [HERE](#).

Senate bill 2192 passed during the 2009 61st Legislative Assembly introduced by Sen. Robert Horne, D-Minot, and myself to designate March 29 as North Dakota Vietnam Veterans Day. Since our last soldiers were removed from Vietnam on March 29, 1975, the bill said each year the governor shall issue a proclamation on March 29 in honor and remembrance of surviving and departed Vietnam veterans, which includes the 198 North Dakota Vietnam veterans, whose names are listed at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., and veterans who are or were missing in action or prisoners of war.

Some of the facts from the Vietnam era conflict include:

Ninety-one percent of Vietnam veterans say they are glad to have served the U.S.; 74 percent of Vietnam veterans said they would serve again, even with knowledge of the results; Five Americans killed in Vietnam were only 16 years old; the oldest American killed in Vietnam was 62 years old; one out of 10 Americans who served was a casualty; 75,000 Vietnam veterans were severely disabled; Vietnam veterans were the best educated forces our nation has ever sent to combat; Seventy-nine percent of Vietnam veterans had a high school education or better; Eighty-seven percent of Americans hold Vietnam veterans in high esteem; There were 151 Medal of Honor recipients; eight females were killed in Vietnam; following the Paris Peace Accords of 1973, 591 American prisoners of war were returned during Operation Homecoming;

There were 2.59 million American veterans who served in the country during the Vietnam era conflict. I want to ask everyone to take a moment of silence to remember the 58,282 Vietnam veterans killed during the war — especially the 198 from North Dakota — and the more than 2,600 Americans who remain unaccounted-for from the conflict. The United States listed about 1,350 Americans as prisoners of war or missing in action and about 1,200 Americans were reported as killed in action and body not recovered. The National League of Families created the POW and missing in action flag in 1971 when the war was still in progress.

In closing, I want to thank our Vietnam veterans for serving the U.S., and I want to will all Vietnam veteran brothers and sisters a welcome home, which we never received. Thank you, God bless America, God bless the great state of North Dakota and God bless all of our veterans who served.

(Marcellais, a Democrat, represents District 9 in the North Dakota Legislature.)



## Top 5 Small Business Administration Resources

The original April 8 SBA article by Rhett Jeppson can be found [HERE](#).

These U.S. Small Business Administration resource partners have almost 1,500 locations across the United States, Guam, and Puerto Rico to help veterans who want to start their own business or grow an existing business. All partners can advise veterans on small business loans and provide training and support on a wide variety of challenges small business owners face, from access to capital to marketing.

### Veterans Business Outreach Center

Veterans Business Outreach Centers (VBOCs) provide entrepreneurial development services such as business training, support and mentoring, and referrals for eligible veterans who already own or are considering starting a small business. For more information, visit: <http://www.sba.gov/content/veterans-business-outreach-centers>.

### Women's Business Centers

Women's Business Centers (WBCs) are designed to assist women start and grow small businesses. WBCs operate with the mission to "level the playing field" for women entrepreneurs, who still face unique obstacles in the world of business. WBCs offer comprehensive training and guidance on a variety of topics in many languages to help them start and grow their own businesses. For more information, visit: <http://www.sba.gov/content/women's-business-centers>.

### Small Business Development Centers

Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs) provide a vast array of technical assistance to small businesses and aspiring entrepreneurs. SBDCs foster local and regional economic development through job creation and retention. SBDC clients receive free, extensive, one-on-one, long-term professional business advising, low-cost training and other specialized services. For more information, visit: <http://www.sba.gov/content/small-business-development-centers-sbdc>

### SCORE: Counselors to America's Small Business

SCORE is a nonprofit association dedicated to helping small businesses get off the ground, grow and achieve their goals through education and mentorship. Volunteer business counselors, advisors and mentors provide free, confidential business counseling, free business tools, and inexpensive or free business workshops to aspiring entrepreneurs and small business owners. For more information visit: [www.score.org](http://www.score.org)

### SBA District Offices

SBA District offices offer one-on-one and group programs on a wide variety business topics for aspiring and existing small business owners, as well as connections and referral to lenders. Ask to speak to a Veterans Business Development Officer (VBDO) or a staff member who is available to help you start, manage and grow a successful small business. For more information, visit: <http://www.sba.gov/tools/local-assistance/districtoffices>



## Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association (SCTCA) Newsletter

### Vietnam, Through the Eyes of Native Americans

By Gary Taylor, Reporting for SCTCA TANF



*"I tried to assess the reasons why this film had such a deep emotional impact upon me. What I found was that perhaps for the first time I had witnessed a film... in which Indian people were allowed to express themselves without being interpreted."*

- Gordon Regguinti, reviewing the documentary *Warriors*

It has been nearly 40 years since the end of the Vietnam War.

And it has been nearly three decades since the documentary *Warriors* was first broadcast by the Native American Public Broadcasting Consortium in Lincoln, Nebraska.

With Memorial Day at the end of May, it is appropriate to revisit the 56-minute documentary by Deborah Wallwork. The film – at times in color, at times black and white – records Native American veterans recounting their combat experiences in Vietnam. The documentary is measured and deliberate, but also startling in one sense: Wallwork approached the work more like a historian than a filmmaker. The result is an often emotional depiction of Vietnam's impact on Indians who served in combat, spoken years later in simple but often stark terms. The production was completed in 1987 – 12 years after the United States had withdrawn from the controversial war that killed more than 58,000 Americans, including nearly 300 Native Americans.

Wallwork's *Warriors* did not go unnoticed: it was awarded the American Indian Film Festival Best Feature Documentary, the National Indian Education Association's Outstanding Media Award and the Best of Festival at the Montana Film and Video Festival.

What follows are excerpts from the documentary, in the words of Native Americans themselves:

*Indian people have always respected their vets. It's never made any difference with the politics of the war. They recognize these people who have done a sacrifice for them. When they serve, they are serving for their people. And that's who they do it for. And Indians recognize this. So when they come home, they come home with honor and dignity. Not like many of the non-Indians who came home to outright hostility. Yet, that does not keep you from having the problems. Indians are human beings, too. Traumatic events are traumatic for us as well as for a non-Indian. The only thing Indian people do, is, they recognize this.*

*Indian people have recognized that war changes people. For centuries and centuries and centuries, they've known this. So when you send a person to war, something happens to him out there. But – they are not held in any low esteem. It's recognized that these people did something that is completely against the law of the universe. They stepped into total turmoil, disruption. And they did this for their people. – Harold Barse*

*I had a friend that was killed in Vietnam. And I'd seen a lot of it on TV. I couldn't really believe it. It was like a movie. And I thought, well, it couldn't really be that bad. I don't know how to explain it, I just joined. I enlisted. About a year later, I was over there. It was real, all right.*

– Vernon White

*The first time I went to Vietnam I was nineteen years old. I turned twenty in Vietnam. And that was really the most hazardous tour of duty in Vietnam because I did see a lot of action and I spent a lot of time as an infantry trooper. And I saw a lot of people die that first time in Vietnam. And it hardened me. It hardened me to the point where I didn't believe in a lot of things I had been taught to believe in. The goodness of man and God, and trust, things like that. That first tour in Vietnam destroyed a lot of things in me.*

– Jerald Lytle

And finally this, again from Vernon White:

*When I first got back, I had a lot of anger in me and I don't know why. I understood more about it when I got back then when I was over there. I had no idea except I thought I was doing my job. And I ran into other people and everyone seemed to be against the war. So I never talked about it. I kept it to myself, my feelings, my opinions. And I started getting angrier and angrier. I did a lot of drugs and drinking, that was part of it. To forget. It was just kind of a bad experience. Yet I had some good times over there, too.*

In an introduction to the documentary, Tom Holm notes that "Native Americans had one of the highest records of service in the Vietnam era conflict, per capita, of any ethnic group. A majority of these men enlisted (90 percent) and a disproportional number served in combat positions: in infantry regiments, tank battalions, airborne and airmobile units, and artillery batteries..."

"A more powerful and persistent reason for the record of service, is that, in fact, many Indian veterans think of their modern warfare experience in terms of much older traditions. For many tribes, war was equally a physical and spiritual experience. Warriors were ritually prepared for, and ceremonially returned from the battlefield. Young men desired to have their strength, courage, and honor tested in war."

Wallwork's *Warriors* captured all of these elements. And she did it by simply letting Native American veterans, in their own words, tell their unforgettable stories about Vietnam.





## Last Seminole Code Talker Dies in Oklahoma - Honored as World War II Native American Hero

By Dana Attocknie, Native Times  
Contributed by Colleen Turner, SCTCA TANF



FILE PHOTO: Edmond Harjo holds his Congressional Gold Medal during a ceremony on Capitol Hill in Washington on November 20, 2013.

SEMINOLE, Okla. — Everyone rises as the first note of a Seminole hymn fills the chapel. Soon after, an American flag is gently rolled back to the middle of the casket, so the top can be opened and a hero revealed.

Friends and family have gathered to pay respect and say their final goodbye to Edmond Andrew Harjo, 96, who died on March 31, at Mercy Hospital of Ada. Harjo was the last surviving Code Talker for the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma. His funeral was held on April 4, at Swearingen Funeral Home Chapel in Seminole, and he was laid to rest at the Seminole Nation Veterans Memorial Cemetery, in Seminole.

Yellow, red, pink and purple sprays of flowers flanked each side of Harjo, and a video screen in the middle of the chapel allowed everyone in the filled pews to watch a portion of the Congressional Gold Medal ceremony that took place on Nov. 20, 2013 in Washington, D.C. The ceremony honored Code Talkers from 33 tribes. Harjo attended the ceremony and was recognized for his dedication and valor as a World War II Code Talker. He was the only living Code Talker to attend.

During the video, Speaker of the House John Boehner (R-Ohio) said Harjo and his brothers were at Normandy and Iwo Jima, and they mobilized the simplest weapon, which was language.

The video shown during his funeral also showcased Harjo sitting in front of a memorial water fountain in his wheelchair and telling of the time he served in the Army as a private first class. He recalled some of his time in Germany and described what he saw and the villages he traveled through. The unit he served with was Battery "A" 195th Field Artillery Battalion. He received a Good Conduct Medal, and a European-African-Middle Eastern (EAME) Campaign service Ribbon with one Silver Service Star for his service as a Code Talker. The Seminole Nation is the recipient of the gold medal for his service.

"Edmond Andrew and his brother were conversing in their first language with each other and they were overheard by their commander," the Rev. Dr. Eugene Wilson, said during Harjo's service. "The language was used as military code, not just to enable war but ... sustain peace."

Rick Harjo said another soldier caught Harjo's attention when he

overheard the soldier singing in their Native language. That encounter eventually led to their service as Code Talkers.

A picture of Harjo in front of the U.S. Capitol remained

on the video screen throughout the service, while shared memories of him ignited smiles, shared laughter eased the heartache, and shared song provided comfort.

"He'd sit there and tickle that ivory ... It was beautiful, very beautiful," Rick Harjo recalled. "I enjoyed listening to him play the piano and how he played Beethoven's 5th Symphony."

Harjo also played the piano in some gospel quartets and at the nutrition center in Maud. He studied composers Johann Sebastian Bach and Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky.

"Andrew said often that his first love was music and the piano," Rick Harjo said.

Harjo was born on Nov. 24, 1917, on the original allotted land in Maud that belonged to his mother, the late Yanna (Grant) Harjo. His father is the late Tony Harjo.

Harjo graduated from Seminole High School and earned a bachelor's and master's degree from Oklahoma City University. He became a school teacher and taught at Maud Schools, at Justice Schools and at Pickett Center. He was also well versed on the Seminole Trail of Tears, and has been heard saying, "Speak your language, you may lose it."

Not long before his uncle died, Rick Harjo said a language lesson was shared between them. They were exchanging what came to be some of their last words together when Harjo hushed his nephew from speaking by saying "Shhh." Harjo and his nephew were speaking in their Native tongue when Rick began to translate their conversation to his family. Harjo said he didn't want to hear the translation and reminded his nephew that when they speak their Native language to each other, its true intent is delivered. But, once words are translated the truth isn't told; it's contaminated and the strength in the words is lost.

Rick Harjo then shared the last moments he had with his uncle, and choked up when he recalled one of his uncle's favorite songs, "The Little Church in the Wildwood."

That song was sung to Harjo for the last time during his service. 🍂





## Service: When Women Come Marching Home

***Service: When Women Come Marching Home*** is a portrait of the courage of several women veterans transitioning from active duty to civilian lives. Having experienced horrific traumas, the women are challenged with both physical and mental injuries, and difficulties in receiving benefits and care.

From the deserts of Afghanistan to rural Tennessee, from Iraq to New York City, these women wrestle with prosthetics, homelessness, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Military Sexual Trauma. Their pictures and videos shot in Iraq and Afghanistan speak volumes. Told through their voices during everyday life in kitchens, grocery stores and even therapy sessions, the documentary is a wake-up call to the unknowing civilian population to the challenges female veterans face returning from duty. That video can be accessed [HERE](http://worldchannel.org/programs/episode/service-when-women-come-marching-home/) and the original link is: <http://worldchannel.org/programs/episode/service-when-women-come-marching-home/>



## VA Removes Annual Income Reporting Requirement - Eliminates Burden on Veterans, Improves Customer Service

WASHINGTON –The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is eliminating the annual requirement for most Veterans enrolled in VA's health care system to report income information beginning in March 2014. Instead, VA will automatically match income information obtained from the Internal Revenue Service and Social Security Administration.

"Eliminating the requirement for annual income reporting makes our health care benefits easier for Veterans to obtain," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "This change will reduce the burden on Veterans, improve customer service and make it much easier for Veterans to keep their health care eligibility up-to-date."

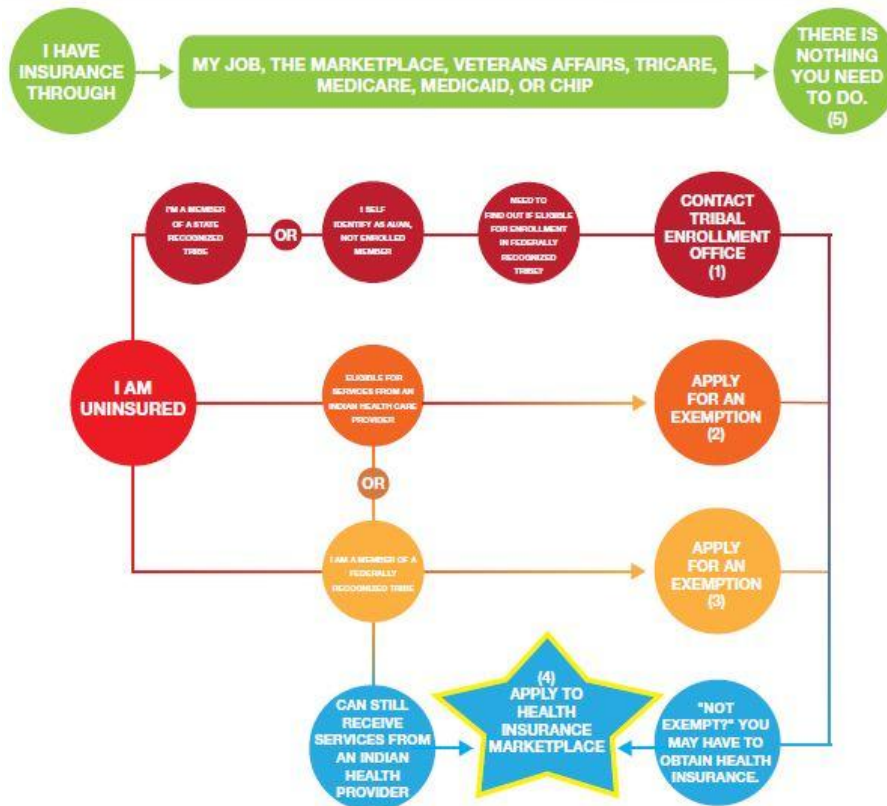
Some Veterans applying for enrollment for the first time are still required to submit income information. There is no change in VA's long-standing policy to provide no-cost care to indigent Veterans, Veterans with catastrophic medical conditions, Veterans with a disability rating of 50 percent or higher, or for conditions that are officially rated as "service-connected." VA encourages Veterans to continue to use the health benefits renewal form to report changes in their personal information, such as address, phone numbers, dependents, next of kin, income and health insurance. For more information, visit [www.va.gov/healthbenefits/cost](http://www.va.gov/healthbenefits/cost) or call VA toll-free at 1-877-222-VETS (8387).



## American Indians and the Affordable Care Act

Still unsure how the Affordable Care Act may affect you? Here's an infographic. A larger, (**more readable**) copy can be found [HERE](#)

### I AM AN AMERICAN INDIAN OR ALASKA NATIVE: Do I need to do anything to comply with the Affordable Care Act?



OMH U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Minority Health  
Office of Minority Health  
800-444-6472  
minorityhealth.hhs.gov  
info@minorityhealth.hhs.gov  
Twitter: @minorityhealth, @saluddeminorias

CMS  
For more information visit:  
go.cms.gov/AIAN or  
www.healthcare.gov/tribal

- 1 Starting in 2014, every person must have health coverage (known as "minimum essential coverage") or an exemption from the requirement to have minimum essential coverage, or make a payment on their federal income tax return. Some people, such as tribal members, are eligible for an exemption from this payment. For more information: <https://www.healthcare.gov/exemptions/>
- 2 You will need to apply for the Exemption through the Marketplace. Although you are exempt, you may still enroll in a Marketplace health plan and qualify for tax credits or be eligible for Medicaid or CHIP. For information on IHS eligibility go to <http://www.hhs.gov/aca>.
- 3 You will need to apply for the Exemption through the Marketplace or when you file your federal income tax return. Although you are exempt, you may still enroll in a Marketplace health plan and could qualify for tax credits or be eligible for Medicaid or CHIP.
- 4 Tribal Members are eligible for monthly enrollment periods. By enrolling in the Marketplace, Medicaid, or CHIP, you can benefit by having better access to services. In addition, tribal programs benefit by having greater resources. For more information go to [www.healthcare.gov/tribal](http://www.healthcare.gov/tribal).
- 5 You are covered. You meet the individual requirement to have health insurance so there is nothing that you need to do. For more information, please visit [HealthCare.gov](http://HealthCare.gov).



## **Obama Administration Launches Online Veterans Employment Center - *One-Stop-Shop* Connects Veterans, Transitioning Service Members, and their Spouses to Employers**

At today's anniversary celebration of Joining Forces, First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden announced the launch of a new integrated employment tool to connect veterans and service members with employers, and to help translate military skills into the civilian workforce. The Veterans Employment Center, an integrated, online tool connecting veterans, transitioning service members and their spouses with both public and private-sector employers, is the result of an interagency effort to improve, simplify and consolidate the current array of employment resources for veterans. Additionally, this will provide one comprehensive database of resumes for employers who are seeking to leverage the skills and talents of veterans, service members, and their spouses.

"Our service members haven't always had the time or information they needed to prepare their resumes, to plot their career goals, to meet with employers and get the jobs they deserve. And that's simply not acceptable," said First Lady Michelle Obama. "As my husband has said, when you've fought for this country around the world, you shouldn't have to fight for a job when you return home. Starting today, every single service member, every veteran, and every military family will have access to a new online tool that will revolutionize how you find jobs in both the public and private sectors. All you have to do is log on to [ebenefits.va.gov](http://ebenefits.va.gov)."

"Veterans deserve an authoritative source for connecting with employers," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "The online Veterans Employment Center is the single, federal source for veterans looking for new career opportunities, service members transitioning to the civilian workforce, and spouses and beneficiaries looking to connect with job opportunities."

The new online resource, called the Veterans Employment Center, is the first interagency tool to bring a wealth of public and private job opportunities, a resume-builder, military skills translator and detailed career and training resources together in one place. In connection with the First Lady and Dr. Biden's Joining Forces initiative, the Department of Veterans Affairs worked with employers, the Departments of Defense, Labor, Education, and the Office of Personnel Management to design and develop the site and incorporate features of existing online employment tools within government. The result is an integrated solution providing veterans, transitioning service members, and military spouses with the tools they need to connect to employers. With this tool, employers will be able to search and view Veteran, Service Member, and spouse resumes in one comprehensive location.

"Our service members transitioning to civilian life, as well as their spouses, deserve the



resources they need to be successful," said Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel. "Through this effort, they are getting that help. Our troops and their spouses are proven leaders, highly-skilled and hard-working. Employers hiring them are getting the best this nation has to offer."

"Improving veterans' employment is an all-hands-on-deck enterprise," said U.S. Secretary of Labor Thomas Perez. "With more than 1 million service members projected to leave the military in the coming years, the Veterans Employment Center, along with the wealth of services the Department of Labor offers through its 2,500 American Job Centers, will connect our veterans and service members with both public and private sector employers eager to hire those with military experience."

"OPM's USAJobs program is excited to be partnering with the VA on making this a robust tool for our nation's veterans and transitioning service members seeking Federal employment," said OPM Director, Katherine Archuleta. "It has been more than four years since President Obama established the Veterans Employment Initiative and, in that time, the Executive Branch of Government hired the highest percentage of military veterans in more than 20 years – of the 195,000 new employees hired in FY 2012, approximately 56,000 were veterans, equaling 28.9 percent of total hires. We can continue to honor and show our appreciation for the dedicated and heroic service of America's veterans by ensuring that they have every opportunity to continue their service to this great nation as Federal civilian employees. The Veterans Employment Center helps us honor these men and women by making employment opportunities available when our servicemen and women lay down their uniforms."

The Veterans Employment Center will provide employers with access to a targeted pool of resumes from veterans and transitioning service members, allowing them to search resumes to identify veterans with skill sets applicable to civilian employment at their organization, and to track progress towards reaching their veteran hiring goals. Resumes are visible to all employers with an active LinkedIn or Google profile. To prevent spam, an applicant's name and email address are redacted and only visible to employers verified by the VA as registered companies with the IRS. The site is also built using open data and an open application programming interface to attract private-sector innovation.

Joining Forces is a national initiative launched by First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Biden to engage all sectors of society to give our service members and their families the opportunities and support they have earned. In addition, Dr. Biden launched the Military Spouse Employment Partnership in June 2011 with just under 60 companies. Today, Dr. Biden announced there are 228 partner employers, more than 1.8 million jobs posted on the MSEP Career Portal and more than 60,000 military spouse hires.

The Veterans Employment Center can be found at: <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits/jobs>. For a tutorial video on how to use the Veterans Employment Center, please visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VWfhI-eSoWk>.





## Central Region

### 2014 Hiring Our Heroes Job Fair – Milwaukee, WI



#### 2014 Hiring Our Heroes Job Fair – Milwaukee, WI

The Wisconsin Center

400 W Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53203

May 10, 2014

**HIRING FAIR: 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM**

This hiring event is a part of the Veteran Employment and Services Conference, presented by the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA), and being conducted by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation, the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (WDWD), the Wisconsin Department of Military Affairs (WDMA), the Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce (MMAC), the Department of Labor Veterans' Employment and Training Service (DOL VETS), the Wisconsin Committee of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), the United States Army Reserve (USAR), the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, The American Legion, Goodwill Industries International, NBC News, and other local partners.

#### **EMPLOYERS**

Must have available jobs.

Register for FREE at [HiringOurHeroes.org](http://HiringOurHeroes.org)

#### **JOB SEEKERS**

Veterans, Active Duty Military, Members Of Guard And Reserve Components, Military Spouses

Register for FREE at [HiringOurHeroes.org](http://HiringOurHeroes.org)

to guarantee admission. Walk-ins welcome but space not guaranteed.

For registration questions, please contact us at [hiringourheroes@uschamber.com](mailto:hiringourheroes@uschamber.com) or call 202-463-5807.



[HIRINGOURHEROES.ORG](http://HIRINGOURHEROES.ORG)

Find Hiring Our Heroes online:

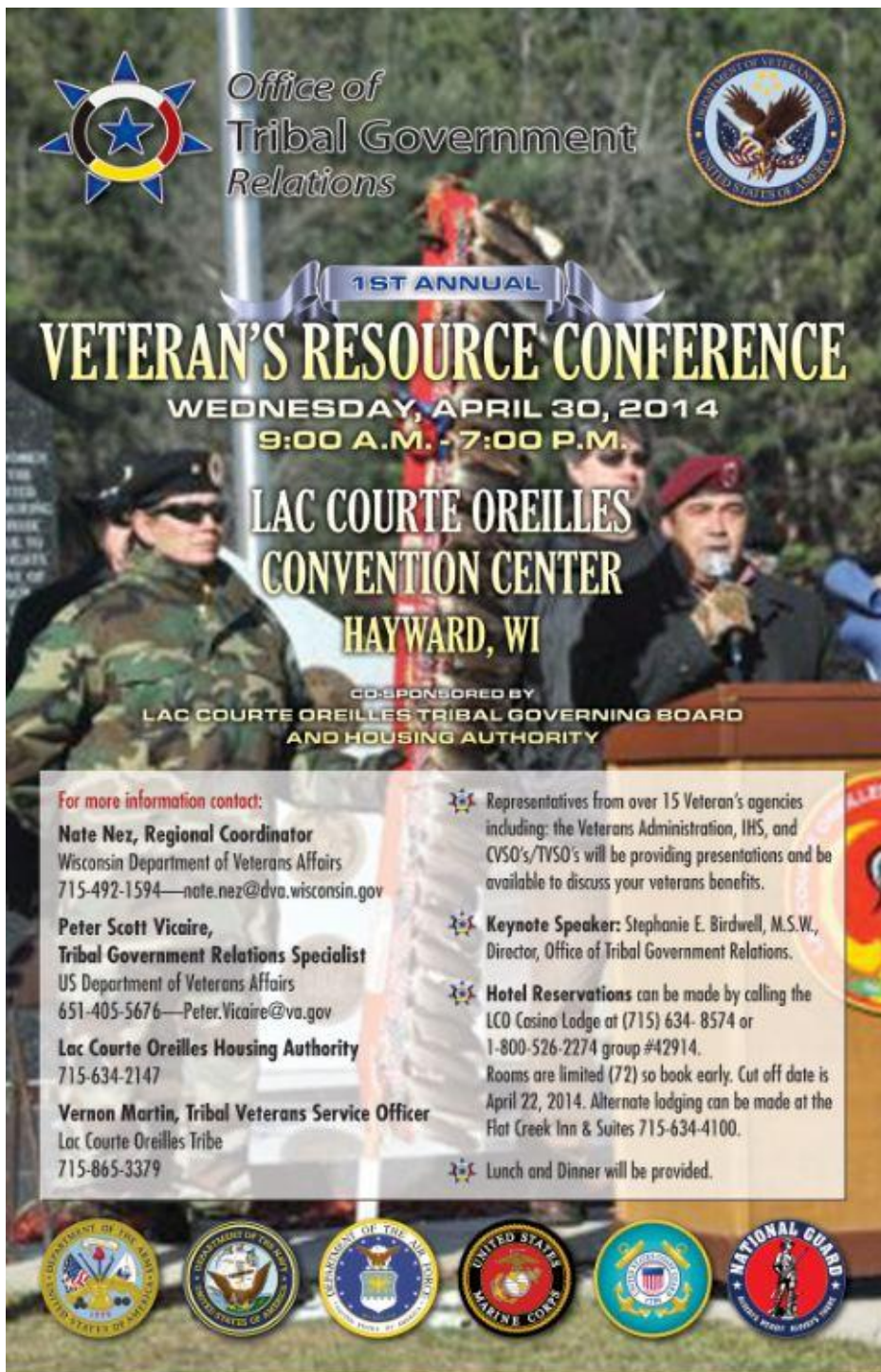



Download the free Hiring Our Heroes mobile app! All our powerful tools and resources at your fingertips.






## Lac Courte Oreilles Veteran Resource Conference – Wednesday, April 30





Office of  
Tribal Government  
Relations



1ST ANNUAL

# VETERAN'S RESOURCE CONFERENCE

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30, 2014  
9:00 A.M. - 7:00 P.M.

## LAC COURTE OREILLES CONVENTION CENTER HAYWARD, WI

CO-SPONSORED BY  
LAC COURTE OREILLES TRIBAL GOVERNING BOARD  
AND HOUSING AUTHORITY





**For more information contact:**







**Nate Nez, Regional Coordinator**  
Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs  
715-492-1594—[nate.nez@dva.wisconsin.gov](mailto:nate.nez@dva.wisconsin.gov)

**Peter Scott Vicaire,**  
**Tribal Government Relations Specialist**  
US Department of Veterans Affairs  
651-405-5676—[Peter.Vicaire@va.gov](mailto:Peter.Vicaire@va.gov)

**Lac Courte Oreilles Housing Authority**  
715-634-2147

**Vernon Martin, Tribal Veterans Service Officer**  
Lac Courte Oreilles Tribe  
715-865-3379

-  Representatives from over 15 Veteran's agencies including: the Veterans Administration, IHS, and CVSO's/TVSO's will be providing presentations and be available to discuss your veterans benefits.
-  **Keynote Speaker:** Stephanie E. Birdwell, M.S.W., Director, Office of Tribal Government Relations.
-  **Hotel Reservations** can be made by calling the LCO Casino Lodge at (715) 634- 8574 or 1-800-526-2274 group #42914. Rooms are limited (72) so book early. Cut off date is April 22, 2014. Alternate lodging can be made at the Flat Creek Inn & Suites 715-634-4100.
-  Lunch and Dinner will be provided.





## Southern Plains Region

### Cherokee Nation Opens Veteran Center

This story originally ran in Native News Online.net. To access that original article, click [HERE](#).



**TAHLEQUAH, OKLAHOMA** — The \$2 million Cherokee Nation Veterans Center is now open for military veterans to visit or seek guidance from the tribe's office of Veteran Affairs.

"We should all take pride in our Veterans Center at the Cherokee Nation tribal complex. It is a place that forever honors our brave men and women for the sacrifices they made to defend our freedoms and protect our great country," said Cherokee Nation Deputy Chief S. Joe Crittenden, a U.S. Navy veteran who served in Vietnam. "On behalf of the Cherokee Nation, we are eternally grateful to all those who served, and that is why we have created a place of respect and reverence for our military veterans, so they know they always have a home at the Cherokee Nation."



Cherokee Nation Veterans Center

The new 8,700-square-foot center, complete with a community room, library, kitchen and sunroom, was completely funded by the Cherokee Nation. It is located just east of the W.W. Keeler Complex, in Tahlequah. Its hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. The center has three full-time tribal



employees on staff to assist veterans with benefits and tribal programs. A Veterans Affairs readjustment counselor is also onsite part time.

“A lot of veterans just want to come in and talk about something, maybe experiences they’ve had. Some of them just need to come in and get it off their chest,” said Dr. Ricky Robinson, Cherokee Nation Veterans Center manager. “They can do that here. If it’s something serious enough, we will help them get an appointment with a licensed counselor in the tribe or through Veterans Affairs.” The facility is set up to provide veterans with an increased level of comfort and includes private offices.

Sam Triplett, an 83-year-old Korean War Marine Corps veteran from Tahlequah, said he appreciates the Cherokee Nation’s efforts to recognize military veterans. He plans to use the Veterans Center. “I think it’s great to have a place where you can meet with other veterans who know what you’ve been through and have access to Cherokee Nation services in one place,” Triplett said. “At my age and with my health, I sometimes need help, and the Cherokee Nation has really taken care of me over the years.”

The center’s large community room will be used for various events throughout the year, including the Cherokee National Holiday’s veterans’ reception and Veterans Day activities.

Memorabilia from Cherokee veterans of all military branches will be displayed inside the center. To donate memorabilia to be displayed, contact Gina Olaya at 918-384-7863 or [gina.olaya@cn-bus.com](mailto:gina.olaya@cn-bus.com). The Cherokee Nation estimates there are more than 4,000 Cherokee veterans.

For more information on the Veterans Center, call 918-453-5000 ext. 6147 or ext. 5695.





## Comanche Indian Veterans Association Hosts 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Armed Forces Day Banquet

### *COMANCHE INDIAN VETERANS ASSOCIATION*

9<sup>th</sup> Annual Armed Forces Day Banquet

May 17, 2014

Comanche Community Center in Apache

Starting at Noon



#### *Guest Speaker*

*Mary Culley, Department of Veterans Affairs*

#### *Recognition to*

*CPL James Patterson, US Army*

*MSgt Kenneth Atauvich, US Air Force, Persian Gulf War and War on Terror*

*LT Kristopher Wermey, US Army and OKARNG, War on Terror*

*LT Kent Tomah, US Army*

*Open to Comanche Veterans and one guest*



*Serving the Comanche Nation since 1976*

*Information George Red Elk 512-2225 or Lanny Asepermy 678-4629*



## Southwest Region



**NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED!  
DRUMS ARE PROVIDED!**

### ***ONE BEAT AT A TIME: A DRUM CIRCLE FOR VETERANS, SERVICE MEMBERS & THEIR FAMILIES & FRIENDS***

**THIRD THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH**

**6:30 - 8:00 pm**

**Santa Barbara Room  
Franciscan Renewal Center  
5802 E. Lincoln Dr., Scottsdale, AZ 85253  
480-948-7460**

**WHAT IS A DRUM CIRCLE?** A supportive recreational group experience that focuses on individual & group empowerment specifically for veterans, service members, their families & friends. Participants are provided a safe place for personal expression. Drumming is a unique aesthetic experience... each can participate within their



*Decrease Stress*

*Improve Mood*

*Strengthen Immune System*

**This circle is being facilitated by Frank Thompson, a Founding Partner of the AZ Health Through Music Initiative, a program that delivers the noted Health Rhythms Protocol to groups and organizations needing stress management.**

**Hosted by the Outreach for Veterans and Military Families at the Franciscan Renewal Center. Register at [vetdrumcircle.eventbrite.com](https://vetdrumcircle.eventbrite.com)**





## Navajo-Hopi “Honor Riders” Film



We realize that by the time you receive this newsletter, the film will have already played on April 27. Regardless, we wanted to put it on your radar. For more information about the Navajo-Hopi Honor Riders, click [HERE](http://www.navajohopihonorriders.com/).

<http://www.navajohopihonorriders.com/>

### ABOUT THE FILM

HONOR RIDERS is a documentary about a AZ motorcycle group known as the Navajo- Hopi Honor Riders. Founded in 2003 after the death of the first Native American woman killed in combat during the Iraq conflict. The original group consisted of a few men who wanted to pay respect to a fallen warrior. Today, the group has grown to over 350 participants, who continually honor and support the needs of its Native Veterans. Their efforts united a community and America's indigenous nations.

### SCREENING INVITATION (RSVP Required)

#### WHEN

Sunday, April 27th, 1:30-4:30pm

#### WHERE

1221 N Central Ave

Phoenix, AZ

Lecture Room, 4th Floor

Contact Ralphina Hernandez (480) 435-0539



[Get Directions](#)

### Film Contains Mature Content

Please be advised, film contains archival footage of the Vietnam War that may not be suitable for all audience members.

 **Heard Museum**

## Heard Museum Honors American Vietnam Veterans – May 24, 2014- Registration Form

### MEMORIAL DAY DINNER HONORING AMERICAN INDIAN VIETNAM WARRIORS



**SATURDAY, MAY 24, 2014**

6 p.m. ♦ Steele Auditorium  
Heard Museum, 2301 N. Central Ave., Phoenix

Join the Heard and its co-host, the Arizona Military Museum, in honoring American Indian Vietnam Warriors and marking the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War with a special tribute dinner.

Featuring a Grand Entry, honor songs by the Thunder Springs drum group, patriotic music, and remarks by:

James Pepper Henry (Kaw/Muscogee Creek)  
Heard Museum Director/CEO

Col. Joe Abodeely USA (Ret.)  
Director of the Arizona Military Museum

Col. Joey Strickland, USA (Ret.)  
Former director of the Arizona Department of Veterans Services

Tickets: \$20 per person ♦ Attendance limited to 250 persons

Send check payable to  
Arizona Military Museum  
by May 15 to:

American Indian Veterans Dinner  
c/o Joseph E. Abodeely, Director  
Arizona Military Museum  
9014 N. Wealth Road  
Maricopa AZ 85139

Questions & Information: Call 520.868.6777

Supported by Arizona Department of Veterans' Services,  
and the Arizona Lottery



 Heard Museum

## Honoring American Indian Vietnam Veterans

I (we) will attend the event *Honoring American Vietnam Veterans* on May 24, 2014 at the Heard Museum, Steele Auditorium, 2301 North Central Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85004. The tables are rounds of ten people each. If you desire to be seated with someone in particular, please register together on the same RSVP. List the names of all ten people at your table; otherwise, you will be seated space available. Business attire/casual, Army Class A or service equivalent, or traditional attire is appropriate for the dinner. Registration is 5:00-6:00pm. Program begins at 6:00.

Please legibly print names, addresses, and contact phone numbers of attendees. No tickets will be issued. You will be checked off a list when you attend the event. For questions, call Joe at 520-868-6777.

**Event is \$20.00 per attendee**

**Enclosed is (are) check(s) for the following listed attendees:**

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Event is \$20.00 per attendee. Enclosed is my payment in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for the people in my group.

**Make Check payable to: Arizona Military Museum.**

**Mail check to:**

American Indian Vietnam Veterans Dinner  
Joseph E. Abodeely, Director, AZ Military Museum  
9014 North Wealth Road  
Maricopa, Arizona 85139

## Free Legal Advice for Veterans ~ June 7, 2014



# Free Legal Advice

## For U.S. Veterans and Their Spouses

*You Need Not Be Disabled  
To Obtain Legal Advice*



*Sponsored by*

*Arizona Disabled American Veterans and Arizona Disabled Veteran Foundation*

### We Will Provide Help In The Following Legal Areas

Divorce/Custody/Child Support  
Debt Counseling /Bankruptcy  
Tax Issues  
Real Estate / Housing Issues

Basic Estate Planning Documents  
Will Be Provided On-site.  
(Simple Wills, Medical Powers  
of Attorney, Financial Powers of  
Attorney)



**Saturday, June 7, 2014**

**9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

Chaparral Suites Scottsdale  
5001 N. Scottsdale Rd.  
Scottsdale, AZ 85250



**A financial need requirement applies. However, most veterans will qualify.**

**To schedule an appointment and receive forms needed for clinic contact:**

*Appointments will have priority over walk-in clients.*





## Honoring Army Sgt. Christopher Gonzales

### Seventh Annual Memorial Event

Honoring U S Army Sgt. Christopher Neil Gonzalez  
and our fallen heroes

**Saturday, May 10, 2014 - 11:00 a.m.**

*Memorial In Honor of Our Fallen And  
All Who Are Serving and Have Served*

**ALWAYS REMEMBER - WE ARE FREE BECAUSE OF THE BRAVE!!**



**10:00 a.m. DST (9:00 AZ) Leupp Chapter House**

Directions to Leupp - I-40 exit 245/AZ99/Leupp Corner - AZ99 north then R15 west  
behind gas station - AZ99 and R15 junction (sw area)

**10:30 a.m. DST (9:30 AZ) KU - Motorcycle Escort to Bird Springs**

**11:00 a.m. DST (10:00 AZ) Memorial Program**

**Bird Springs Chapter House - Navajo Nation**

Directions to Bird Springs -I-40 exit 245/AZ99/LeuppCorner - AZ99 north then R15 east



U.S.Army Sgt. Christopher Neil Gonzalez, 26, of Bird Springs, AZ, assigned to 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, Ft. Stewart, GA, killed May 14, 2007, in Salman Pak, Iraq

Christopher was a wonderful, loving and caring husband, father, son, brother, uncle, grandson, cousin, relative, and friend. He was brave, courageous and without fear, doing the task that was set before him.

He is our Hero and never will be forgotten and will be forever in our hearts. Christopher was a Native of Arizona and was proud to serve and fight for his country, making the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.

They are the heroes that will always be a symbol of American courage. May we always remember the fallen as we walk the path of freedom for they are why we continue to be the land of the free and the home of the brave. As we continue to celebrate their lives, we offer love and thanks to the families for their contribution to this Country.

May 14 is seven years the family departed with their beloved. The Family requests your presence (Gold Star and Blue Star Families, veterans, family, friends) at this annual gathering to honor those who have nobly given of themselves for our Nation.

Thank you for your generosity and support and God bless you. We hope to see you there.

**Judy Nez, Proud Mother  
RSVP - - 928-640-6131**

#### Many Thanks to the Veterans' Groups of Leupp and Bird Springs!!

The American Flag is a symbol of everything our military have dedicated their lives to. When the flag is flown, it is in memory of the thousands of fallen Heroes who sacrificed their lives in service to this Nation. Anyone who is in service to this Country view the flag as more than just cloth - it is the reason for existence and ultimate sacrifice.



During an honoring segment of the program, our Veterans will perform the Refolding Flag ceremony where the flag of the departed will be allowed to breathe, will be blessed and will be refolded to honorably be returned to the family. As the flag is folded and returned, we realize that the ceremony and the flag itself have come to symbolize something beyond just remembrance. It signifies the greatness of all who have sacrificed their lives. It is about paying respect to those that came before, especially those that paid the ultimate price.

Please feel free to bring the flag of your loved one to be included in this ceremony.



**Winslow Hotels - I-40 exits 252&253**  
Econo Lodge, 2035 W. 3rd St. 928-289-1010 ChoiceHotels.com  
Rodeway Inn, 1916 W. 3rd St. 928-289-4606 ChoiceHotels.com  
Quality Inn, 1701 N. Park Dr. 928-289-4638 ChoiceHotels.com  
Motel 6, 520 Desmond St. 928-289-9581 Motel6.com



#### SPECIAL EVENT

[http://navajohopihonorriders.com/Annual\\_Run\\_Memorials.html](http://navajohopihonorriders.com/Annual_Run_Memorials.html)  
**Tuesday, May 13** - Lupton Chapter (Registration & Staging) St. Michael's (Reader), Ganado (Shondee, Joyce), Keams Canyon, Kykotsmovi Hopi Veterans Memorial Center, Dilkon, Birdsprings (Gonzales), Leupp, Flagstaff (Piestewa)  
**Wednesday, May 14** - Flagstaff, Cameron (Moon), Tuba City, Gap, Page (Keith), Kayenta (Davis)  
**Thursday, May 15** - Kayenta, Beclabeto (Tom, Yazzie), Shiprock Westbrock, Cambridge, Yazzie, Red Valley, Lukachukai (Todacheene), Chinle





## Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Education & Support Group at Northern Arizona VA Health Care System - Chinle

POSTTRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER (PTSD)

**EDUCATION & SUPPORT GROUP**

*for veterans & their families at the  
Chinle Hospital Counseling Services*

***April 01, 2014 at 1:00 pm: What PTSD means & Anger***

***April 08, 2014 at 1:00 pm: Flashbacks***

***April 15, 2014 at 1:00 pm: Nightmares***

***April 22, 2014 at 1:00 pm: Avoidance***

***April 29, 2014 at 1:00 pm: Numbing***

***May 06, 2014 at 1:00 pm: Startle Response***

***May 13, 2014 at 1:00 pm: Emotion Regulation***

***May 20, 2014 at 1:00 pm: Guilt***

***May 27, 2014 at 1:00 pm: Sleep Disturbance & Wrap-up***

For any questions you may have please contact Northern Arizona VA Health Care System (NAVAHCS) at 928 674-7378 or the Chinle Counseling Services at (928) 674-7377.

Individual, couple, family counseling also available upon request



## Black Creek Gourd Society ~ Annual Honor Gourd Dance Celebration



# **RUN FOR THE WALL**

&

## **BLACK CREEK GOURD SOCIETY** **Annual Honor Gourd Dance Celebration**



Thursday - May 15, 2014

Red Rock State Park Rodeo Ground  
Church Rock, NM

**12:00 PM TO 6:00 PM**



*Master of Ceremonies:* Michael Salabiye - Gallup, NM

*Head Gourd Dancer:* Raymond Klah  
Black Creek Gourd Society - Pinon, AZ

*Head Gourd Singer:* Paul Bemore  
Inter-Tribal Veterans Association - Osage Nation, OK

*Arena Director:* Larry Anderson Sr - Ft. Defiance, AZ

*Color Guard:* Zuni Vietnam Veterans - Zuni, NM

For More Information Call:

Larry Anderson, Sr. or Victoria Anderson @ (602) 516-8461

Or Email: [vmasa54@yahoo.com](mailto:vmasa54@yahoo.com)

THIS IS AN ALCOHOL AND DRUG-FREE EVENT. SPONSORS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ACCIDENTS,  
THEFT, DAMAGE OR ANY OTHER MISHAPS.

**FREE EVENT, COME ONE, COME ALL! BRING YOUR OWN CHAIRS! NO VENDING!**





Connecting homeless and at-risk veterans  
and their families with the services they need.

# ATTENTION VETERANS!

## 2nd Annual High Country STAND DOWN May 16-17, 2014 Flagstaff, Arizona

**Friday, May 16, 2014**  
**FLAGSTAFF ARMORY**  
320 N. Thorpe Road  
Stand Down Event: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Registration open all day  
Event is open to the public, but  
VETS ONLY after 5 p.m.

**Saturday, May 17, 2014**  
**AMERICAN LEGION POST 3**  
204 Birch Ave.  
Veteran Surplus Distribution 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
11 a.m. Armed Forces Day Parade

**Services Offered:**

- Arizona Department of Veterans Services
- Surplus goods (clothing)
- Notary services
- Pet services
- Housing assistance
- DNA Legal Services
- Veterans Court (Friday 1-5 p.m.)
- Veterans Administration Mobile Vet Center
- AA meetings
- Physical therapy
- Dental services, exams
- Veterans Service Organization (VSO)
- Showers
- Hygiene kits
- And more!

**For more information contact:**  
Philan Tree, Assistant to  
Coconino County Supervisor Mandy Metzger  
Phone: 928-679-7141  
E-mail: [ptree@coconino.az.gov](mailto:ptree@coconino.az.gov)  
[www.arizonastanddown.org/highcountry](http://www.arizonastanddown.org/highcountry)

**We must Stand Up so our  
Veterans can Stand Down.**





**22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Arizona Military  
Women's Luncheon  
May 17, 2014  
10:00am – 2:00pm  
VA Medical Center  
7<sup>th</sup> St./Indian School  
Phoenix, AZ**



***Registration Deadline  
May 9, 2014***

**Contact: [fulkers6@hotmail.com](mailto:fulkers6@hotmail.com)**





## Call for Nominations for the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame Class of 2014

Phoenix, Arizona - The Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame located in Phoenix, Arizona, seeks to recognize those Arizonans who have worn the uniform of this Nation's Armed Forces, performed their military duties, have been awarded an honorable discharge, and then continued to contribute to community, State, and Nation in an exemplary manner. These outstanding contributions may, for example, be in areas of professional, civic, advocacy, and other contributions over the life of the nominee. The Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame focuses on a nominee's contributions outside of and after his/her military service.

Regarding eligibility for nomination to the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame, the nominee must have been born in Arizona, entered military service from Arizona, or lived in Arizona for a minimum of 5 years; must have received an honorable discharge from the US military service, be of good character, and have no felony convictions. Eligibility requirements are based on the Nomination application deadline, or April 30th of the year. Posthumous nominations are accepted.

To preclude conflict of interest or the appearance thereof, employees of the Governor's Office Executive Staff including Arizona Department Directors, are not eligible for consideration to be selected to the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame until two (2) years after they have left such employment, unless the individual is 70 years of age or older.

The Nomination Form containing the guidelines for submitting a Nomination is posted on the web site: [www.azuav.org](http://www.azuav.org). The postmark deadline is Wednesday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014 for submitting the Nomination Form, the copy of DD-Form 214 Proof of Honorable Military Service or Certificate of Honorable Discharge (prior to 1950), and the Narrative addressing the Guidelines. The Nomination packet is limited to a maximum of 12 pages, 8½ by 11.

The Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame Class of 2014 will be inducted by Governor Janice K. Brewer on Friday, October 24, 2014, at The Buttes resort, 2000 Westcourt Way, Tempe 85282. The public is invited to the Induction Ceremony and Luncheon, doors open at 10:30 am. Ceremony and Luncheon registration will be posted in September 2014 at the web site: [www.azuav.org](http://www.azuav.org)

For more information, please contact Carol Culbertson, Secretary, Unified Arizona Veterans, at email: [claudehc@yahoo.com](mailto:claudehc@yahoo.com) or telephone (602) 943.7834. Media Point of Contact: Carol Culbertson, Secretary, Unified Arizona Veterans - Email: [claudehc@yahoo.com](mailto:claudehc@yahoo.com) - Office: (602) 943-7834

Rob Welch, Chairman, Unified Arizona Veterans  
Email: [celticop@cox.net](mailto:celticop@cox.net)  
(623) 533-3704



## Western Region



# HERO 2 HIRED

**NATIONAL GUARD AND  
RESERVE, VETERANS,  
ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY,  
AND MILITARY SPOUSES  
JOB FAIR**

**Thursday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2014**

**10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

**Idaho Army National Guard Armory  
2707 16<sup>th</sup> Ave., Lewiston**

The Hero2Hired job fair is a day-long event specifically for members of the National Guard and Reserve, veterans, active duty military, and military spouses. Local businesses will be recruiting the exceptional talent of our service members for many positions.

#### **EMPLOYERS:**

If your company will be hiring in the near future, please consider being a vendor at the job fair to connect with these job seekers. Register by clicking on the link below where you will find more information.

#### **HELPING JOB SEEKERS:**

Please forward this to any job seeking veteran and military member who you know so they can register for this event. In previous job fairs, many interviews were scheduled after the companies met with the veteran job seekers.

**EMPLOYERS** - Register at the link below for this free event.  
<https://labor.idaho.gov/idahoevents/register.aspx?e=174>

**MILITARY JOB SEEKERS** - Register at the link below to guarantee admission.  
<https://labor.idaho.gov/idahoevents/register.aspx?e=173>

**VENDOR SPACE IS LIMITED AND RESERVED ON A FIRST-COME,  
FIRST-SERVED BASIS. REGISTER TODAY!**

Sponsored by:





## OTGR Veteran Training Summit ~ Nez Perce

### *Medical Center joins State, Regional, and National VA Support for Veterans Training Summit in Lewiston, Idaho*

By Bret Bowers, Public Affairs Officer  
April 2014



Following prayer, drum and song, American Indian Veterans posted the colors to open the VA Office of Tribal Government Relations (OTGR) Veterans Training Summit in Lewiston, ID last week. The two day event brought VA leaders, subject matter experts and resources to provide Veterans with the very latest information available about benefits, programs, and services available to them.

The team from Spokane's Mann-Grandstaff VA Medical Center was led by **Linda Reynolds**, Medical Center Director. She was joined by **Dr. John Osborn, Kurt Rossbach, Tammie Maple, Bennett Traylor, Esther Westlake and Bret Bowers. Bob Sonderman, Mike Lehman and Paul Hacker** delivered the Mobile Clinic for exams. The (Spokane) Vet Center sent **Josh Anderson** and **Joe Dumlao**. Dozens of Veterans and key stakeholders were greeted by vendors and trade-table booths. Walla Walla VA's leadership, including Director **Bryan Westfield** was there, as were **Linda Wondra** and **David Beebe** from the Jonathan Wainwright Memorial VA Medical Center (Walla Walla).

"These Veteran Training Summits, sponsored by VA's Office of Tribal Government Relations, are great examples of how a federal agency can bring together members and leaders of Native American tribes to offer information and guidance on how to navigate the many programs and benefits available to Veterans," explained **Larry Carroll**, Director of VA's Northwest Health Network (VISN 20).

"The VA has made significant progress in recognizing, respecting and accommodating Native American cultural sensitivities into its programs and services. Summits like the one in Lewiston, ID provide an excellent forum for strengthening relationships between the VA and Native American tribes," he continued.

In Veteran circles, nobody respects their elders more than the distinctive culture of Native Americans. They openly pray. Their songs and the pounding beat of the warrior drum elicit deep emotions for not just those who've passed on, but also those who've made it back after serving their country and fighting in combat as a member of the U.S. Armed Forces. Native America Indians openly thank each and every Veteran, anytime they thank their own.

The two-day summit provided some traditional, honorary customs, including recognizing their Tribal Elders, including World War-II Veterans and other special guests pleased to receive the generous offering of a hand-made quilt.



Above: Linda Reynolds, Medical Center Director comments among the Distinguished Panel discussion during the OTGR Veterans Training Summit in Lewiston, Idaho April 9-10, 2014



At Center, Larry Carroll, Director VISN-20 comments during panel discussion at Veterans Training Summit. At left: Bryan Westfield, Director - Walla Walla VA and at right, Kathryn Malin, Director VBA Regional Office in Boise, Idaho.



L-R: Terry Bentley, VA-OTGR presents Korean War Veteran, Clifford Allen (Nez Perce Tribe) with a hand-made quilt.



## OTGR Veteran Training Summit ~ Nez Perce



The conference provided in-depth presentation and discussion about several Veteran-centric programs, including Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Support; news and updates from the State of Idaho Division of Veteran Services, Veterans Treatment Courts and Veterans Justice Outreach diversionary programs (where the current need throughout the region – is for volunteer Veteran Peer Mentors); changes to Veterans Beneficiary Travel; claims and

benefits; suicide prevention; and the Native American Indian Veterans Advisory Council's annual Memorial and Honoring ceremony held at the Mann-Grandstaff VA Medical Center, which draws hundreds of Veterans and spectators each September during the one-day event here.

Equally important, are the health care services available to Native American Veterans through local clinics where formalized agreements are providing all Veterans on and off reservation with health care and/or reimbursement through VA and Indian Health Services (IHS). "A lot of Tribal Veterans prefer staying close to home for their Health care, explained Steven Moffit, a Tribal Veteran Representative and OEF/OIF/OND Veteran who served in the U.S. Army. "We're trying to make it convenient by giving them options for health care with the providers they already know."

Nationally, there are 46 current Tribal Health Programs (THP's) governing 81 Indian Health Services contracts with the VA. In all, they currently serve 2300 of the 48,000 eligible Native American or Alaskan Indian Veterans. To date, the VA has reimbursed IHS nearly \$6,000,000 in direct care to Veterans. The two closest IHS clinics to the Mann-Grandstaff VA Medical Center are the Benewah Medical & Wellness Center (Coeur d'Alene Tribe) in Plummer, Idaho; and "The People's Clinic" (Nez Perce Tribe) in Lapwai, Idaho near Lewiston.

One of the presentations offered at the summit, was a close-up look at VA Home Loans and the distinction between the Native American Direct Loan (NADL) and the traditional VA Home Loan for eligible Veterans.

Ivonne Perez, a VA Loan Specialist gave a presentation on the clear advantages of a guaranteed VA Home Loan compared to a commercial loan. For example, Veterans who have a 10% disability rating do not have to pay any "loan handling" fees which can be in the hundreds of dollars. Ms. Perez showed another benefit for Native American Veterans. Closing costs on a NADL loan are 1.91% of the loan amount, compared to 5.34% for a typical VA home loan.

"That's a real savings," she explained. During the market decline in the late 2000's, where many American's faced foreclosure or lost their home, the VA was there to help when many home loans became "at risk" throughout the country.



Above: Bennett "Tray" Traylor explains Veteran eligibility and the recent switch to Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) for travel reimbursement to Veteran Julian Matthews, Nez Perce Tribe and Terry Bentley, VA OTGR at the conference.



Above left: Tammie Maple, Minority Veteran Program Manager, provided an overview of the American Indian Veterans Advisory Council at work at the Mann-Grandstaff VAMC. Stephen Moffit, a US Army Veteran and Coeur d'Alene Tribal Veteran Representative also provided helpful information



Above Left: Ivonne Perez, a VA Home Loan specialist explains the advantages and benefits of a VA Home Loan to Veteran Stephanie Rosebrook.



## OTGR Veteran Training Summit ~ Nez Perce



"If the Veteran's goal is to stay in their house, we will find ways to make it happen," she smiled. Any Veteran with questions about their VA Home Loan can call the VA's regional loan service center in Denver, CO at (888) 349-7541.

In addition to the presentations at the summit, Veterans were presented with multiple VA programs, services, and vendors. Among them, were the Spokane Vet Center staff, who provided information and resources related to the counseling services offered on-site, and during their on-going "Boots on the Ground" outreach campaign where Vet Center staff are traveling to 34 counties to meet with Veterans and service organizations in rural areas. One additional topic presented and open each August to Veterans and 60 VA Staff within VISN 20, is the therapeutic and cleansing results found through the Yakima Tribe's "Camp Chapparel" week-long camp in rural S.W. Washington State.

All of the topics presented and discussed at the Veterans Training Summit were provided by the VA Office of Tribal Government Relations and coordinators Peter Vicaire and Terry Bentley. Ms. Bentley, a Native American herself, hosts OTGR Conferences throughout the Western U.S. and hosted a OTGR Western Region summit in Spokane in 2012.



Above: Kurt Rossbach, Suicide Prevention Coordinator met with Veterans and provided information about Question, Persuade, & Respond (QPR) method to assist people when in a mental health crisis.



Above L-R: Dave Beebe, Team Leader of the Walla Walla Vet Center and Josh Anderson, Vet Center, a Readjustment Counseling Specialist with Spokane's Vet Center attended the 2014 Veterans Training Summit.



Above and Left: Posting of the Colors during opening ceremonies of the 2014 VA Office of Tribal Government's Veterans Training Summit at the Clearwater Casino in Lewiston, Idaho – hosted by OTGR's Terry Bentley and Peter Vicaire.



Above L-R: Paul Hacker, Mike Lehman, and Bob Sonderman provided clinical services at the Veterans Training Summit through the VAMC Mobile Clinic bus.





## Northern California Veteran Training Summit September 18-19, 2014 - Hosted by Smith River Rancheria, Smith River, CA

The VA Office of Tribal Government Relations is sponsoring a day and a half Veterans Training Summit, graciously hosted by Smith River Rancheria at the Lucky 7 Casino Hotel & Event Center on September 18-19, 2014 in Smith River, California. There is no cost for the training. For more Information or to register for the event contact: Terry Bentley, Tribal Government Relations Specialist covering the Western Region (OR, WA, ID, NV, CA and AK) at email: [terry.bentley@va.gov](mailto:terry.bentley@va.gov) or by calling 541-440-1271. Space is limited. More details will be forthcoming as the agenda and event is planned.

### **An Important Forum**

“An important forum not only to bring VA, State, Veteran Service Organizations and other agency partners together, but also to share information with tribal leaders, service providers, and to Veterans and their families living in Indian Country who don’t always have ready access to these services or access to those who can offer a road map to help navigate the various systems that serve Veterans.” Stephanie Birdwell, Director, OTGR.



## **NIVA CALENDAR MAY 2014**

(sent out 04/23/14)

**Northwest Indian Veterans Association**

**MAY:**

**ASIAN PACIFIC-AMERICAN MONTH**

**3rd (Saturday)  
(NIVA COLOR GUARD)**

**UISHE NAIMUMA TRADITIONAL  
POW WOW (Day One)  
Peter Stott Center (Gym), PSU  
930 SW Hall St  
Portland, OR 97201  
Noon, NIVA Practice  
1:00 PM, Grand Entry  
7:00 PM, NIVA CG Retire Colors**

**4th (Sunday)  
(NIVA COLOR GUARD)**

**UISHE NAIUMA TRADITIONAL  
POW WOW (Day Two)  
(Same Location)  
Noon, NIVA Practice  
1:00 PM, Grand Entry  
6:00 PM, 2nd Entry  
9:00 PM, NIVA CG Retire Colors**

**5th (Monday)  
(F.Y.I.)**  
celebrates the turning point in their war to end the French Occupation of their country.

**CINCO DE MAYO**  
Toast our neighbors to the South, as Mexico

**7th (Wednesday)  
(ALL NIVA MEMBERS)**

**MONTHLY NIVA MEETING  
Columbia Room  
3rd Floor, Bldg 11  
Vancouver Division, PVAMC  
1601 East Fourth Plain Blvd  
Vancouver, WA 98661  
7:00 PM, Meeting Starts**

**Tonight we'll conduct a debriefing on the Chief Redheart Memorial -  
Congrats to our Hard-Working Crew, it came out great. (Our Monthly  
Meetings are always on the first Wednesday of each month)**

**11th (Sunday)  
(F.Y.I.)**

**MOTHER'S DAY**  
Now, you know you're not going to forget this day



**12th (Monday) EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT CROSS BORDER  
(NIVA COLOR GUARD) CONFERENCE (DAY ONE)**

**Benson Hotel  
309 SW Broadway  
Portland, OR**

**(Details still being worked out)**

**13th (Tuesday) EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT CROSS BORDER  
(NIVA COLOR GUARD) CONFERENCE (DAY TWO)**

**Same Location**

**14th (Wednesday) EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT CROSS BORDER  
(NIVA COLOR GUARD) CONFERENCE (DAY THREE)**

**Same Location**

**17th (Saturday) ARMED FORCES DAY  
(F.Y.I.) Salute all our Brothers and Sisters in Uniform today**

**17th (Saturday) IN HONOR OF OUR CHILDREN  
(NIVA COLOR GUARD) KELSO 29th ANNUAL POW WOW**  
**Kelso High School**  
**1904 Allen Street**  
**Kelso, WA**  
**11:00 AM, NIVA CG Practice**  
**12:00 AM, Grand Entry**  
**5:00 PM, Dinner Break**  
**7:00 PM, 2nd Grand Entry**  
**9:00 PM, NIVA CG Retire Colors**

**19th (Monday) MUSTAFA KEMAL ATATURK'S BIRTHDAY (1881)  
(F.Y.I.) The Father of Modern Turkey**

**22nd (Thursday) TITLE VII HONOR DAY  
(NIVA COLOR GUARD) HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION**  
**Native Student Center, PSU**  
**710 SW Jackson St**  
**Portland, OR 97201**  
**5:00 PM, NIVA CG Practice**  
**6:00 PM, NIVA CG Post Colors**  
**8:30 PM, NIVA CG Retire Colors**

**26th (Monday) MEMORIAL DAY  
(F.Y.I.) (Federal Holiday - VA Closed)**  
**Today, We Toast Our Fallen Comrades**





**26th (Monday)**                      **MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY**  
**(NIVA COLOR GUARD)**      **Clark County Veteran's Memorial**  
   **Vancouver Barracks**  
   **09:30 AM, NIVA CG Practice**  
   **11:00 AM, Ceremony Begins**  
   **12:00 PM, Ceremony Ends**

They are requesting our arrival at 0930 so that we can work out the ceremony details with the other Color Guard units that we will be coordinating with. (secondary inducement is that they will have coffee and doughnuts in the Artillery Barracks for all of us) This is an excellent chance for us to meet and mingle with other Veteran organizations.

**28th (Wednesday)**                      **JIM THORPE'S BIRTHDAY (1888)**  
**(F.Y.I.)** He was voted the Greatest Athlete of the 20th Century, beating out Muhammad Ali, Babe Ruth, Jesse Owens, Wayne Gretzky, Jack Nicklaus and Michael Jordan. He won Olympic Gold Medals in the 1912 Pentathlon and Decathlon, his first love though was Football and he played and coached Collegiate and Professional Football. He was 2X Consensus All-American (1911, 1912), GB Press-Gazette First Team All-Pro (1923), NFL 1920's All-Decade Team, NFL 50th Anniversary All-Time Team, College Football Hall of Fame Inductee (1951), Pro Football Hall of Fame Inductee (1963). In Baseball he played in a 1912 Olympic Exhibition Team and later played professionally with the New York Giants (1913 - 1915, 1917, 1918 - 1919), Cincinnati Reds (1917), and the Boston Braves (1919) He also played Basketball with the "Jim Thorpe and His World-Famous Indians" barnstorming for two years (1927 - 1928). And just to round everything out he also won the 1912 Intercollegiate Ballroom Dancing Championship. He died at age 64 on March 28th, 1953. However, his legend will never die. (Sac and Fox (Sauk))

**28th (Wednesday)**                      **ONABEN CONFERENCE**  
**(NIVA COLOR GUARD)**      **Lewis and Clark College**  
   **Chapel**  
   **0615 SW Palatine Hill Rd**  
   **Portland, OR**  
   **7:30 AM, NIVA CG Practice**  
   **8:30 AM, NIVA CG Post Colors**  
   **5:00 PM, NIVA CG Retire Colors**

Trying to keep us all informed, Dave Hancock, NIVA



## Eastern Region

### Eastern Region Veterans Training Summit

Silver Star Casino and Hotel  
Choctaw, MS—May 21-22, 2014

All Veterans Welcome!



To register, please contact:

Mary Culley 405-456-3876—[Mary.Culley@va.gov](mailto:Mary.Culley@va.gov)

Peter Vicaire 651-405-5676—[Peter.Vicaire@va.gov](mailto:Peter.Vicaire@va.gov)

**MISSISSIPPI  
BAND OF  
CHOCTAW  
INDIANS**

